

CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (*Currently amended*) A computer system implemented method of developing a technical standard in the process of product development comprising:

- (a) generating a draft technical standard;
- (b) using a computer system, electronically circulating a document with the draft technical standard to a review group;
- (c) automatically attaching review group comments to the draft technical standard;
- (d) electronically locking ~~a~~ the document with the draft technical standard to provide a locked document;
- (e) electronically circulating the locked document with the draft technical standard to an approval group, the approval group members having access to the review group comments;
- (f) collecting electronic approvals from each member of the approval group and automatically removing any approvals from approval group members if the document with the draft technical standard has been unlocked;
- (g) rendering the locked document with the draft technical standard unchangeable once each member of the approval group has electronically approved of the draft technical standard; and
- (h) releasing the document with the rendered technical standard for electronic access.

2. (*Previously amended*) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 1 wherein generating a draft technical standard comprises:

- (a)(i) electronically capturing a text-based document containing information relating to the draft technical standard; and
- (a)(ii) electronically adding data-structured attributes to the captured document.

3. (Original) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 2 further comprising searching for the technical standard based on the data-structured attributes.

4. (Original) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 1 further comprising electronically tracking review and approval status.

5. (Previously amended) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 1 further comprising electronically notifying specified users when a document with the technical standard is released.

6. (Previously amended) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 1 further comprising storing a document with the released technical standard in a globally accessible database.

7. (Previously amended) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 1 further comprising limiting access to documents with the technical standard based on user authorization.

8. (Original) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 7 further comprising approving a user for authorized access by collecting at least one electronic approval.

9. (Original) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 7 further comprising approving a user for authorized access based on a role assigned to the user.

10. (Previously amended) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 1 further comprising:

(i) determining that the technical standard is to be modified;

(j) incrementing the version of the technical standard; and
(k) circulating a document with the incremented version technical standard to the approval group.

11. (Previously amended) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 1 further comprising:

(i) translating a document with the technical standard into at least one language/rendition different than a language/rendition in which the technical standard was generated; and

(j) linking the translated technical standard to the technical standard.

12. (Original) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 1 further comprising attaching additional documentation to the draft technical standard, the additional documentation accessible by members of the review group.

13. (Original) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 1 further comprising printing the rendered technical standard with a watermark including the print date.

14. (Previously amended) A method of developing a technical standard as in claim 1 further comprising:

(i) storing the technical standard in a rendered format; and

(j) storing the technical standard in a native format.

15-26. (Canceled)

27-75. (Canceled)

76. (Currently amended) Computer-readable media having computer-readable instructions for performing a method of specifying a product developing a technical standard in a process of product development which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform the steps comprising:

- (a) generating a draft technical standard;
- (b) electronically circulating a document with the draft technical standard to a review group;
- (c) automatically attaching review group comments to the draft technical standard;
- (d) electronically locking ~~a~~ the document with the draft technical standard to provide a locked document;
- (e) electronically circulating a locked document with the draft technical standard to an approval group, the approval group members having access to the review group comments;
- (f) collecting electronic approvals from each member of the approval group and automatically removing any approvals from approval group members if the document with the draft technical standard has been unlocked;
- (g) rendering the locked document with the technical standard unchangeable once each member of the approval group has electronically approved of the draft technical standard; and
- (h) releasing the document with the rendered technical standard for electronic access.

77. (Canceled)